up for occupational safety and health in the work place, to assess weaknesses of the existing set up and suggest ways to improve if and also to suggest ways to improve occupational safety standards in the large segments of work force not included so far, etc.

The working group in its report recommended that a coherent National Policy on Occupational Safety and Health of Workers employed in all sectors of the economy should be prepared through tripartite consulatation. The working group has recommended improvement of Occupational Safety and Health in the Mines, Factories, Ports and Docks in the organized sector and to provide awareness and training to workers in the Agriculture construction, Beedi and Cigar manufacturing shops and establishments, home work, eating places and waste management sectors in the unorganized sector during the plan period. Formulation of National Policy on occupational Safety and Health is a gigantic task requiring formulation by a group of experts and thereafter discussion in a tripartite forum. The State Governments and Departments/Ministries of the Central Government would also be consulted to finalise the National Policy. Therefore, it would not be possible to give a definite time schedule at this juncture.

Counter service for EPFO beneficiaries

5347. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up "Any time any where" counter service for Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) beneficiaries;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of such counters to be set up in Orissa and location thereof; and

(c) by when these counters are likely to start working?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) A modernisation programme namely "Reinventing Employees Provident Fund—India" has been launched by the Employees Provident Fund Organisation. It involves reengineering of the existing work process, re-tooling of accounting system and setting up of an information technology/computer enable system through networking of all offices of Employees Provident Fund Organisation. It envisages

providing all services to every member from any EPF location on a real time basis. This modernisation programme will enable the subscriber to access his account balance and file his claim from any of the Offices of the EPFO as against the present system which limits him to only one office where he is registered and to reduce the time between receipt of claim to issue of a cheque to 2-3 days as against the present stipulated time of 30 days. The first phase of the modernization programme involving setting up of pilot centres in following six locations covering all four zones, is proposed to be made operational in a time span of 24 months.

West Zone	Indore & Kota
East Zone	Patna
North Zone	Gurgaon
South Zone	Hyderabad & Mangalore

After stablisation of six pilot centres the redesigned system is proposed to be replicated all over the country in a phased manner.

Plight of workers of Khatau Mills, Mumbai

5348. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the plight of workers of the Khatau Mills, Mumbai, who are facing hard for their livelihood due to closure of the mill some years back;

(b) whether Government are also aware that despite courts'and Government's orders workers are not being paid their dues in contravention of Labour Laws and only suicide is a way out;

(c) whether Government would intervene in the matter to implement Court's order to pay the dues;

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard;

(e) if not, whether Government would leave thousand of workers and their families to die without bread?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.